



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the malicious act of intentionally setting fire to buildings and property, known as arson, is one of the Nation's most devastating crimes in terms of financial and personal loss, and it is also one of the largest, deadliest, and most expensive fire problems in the Empire State; and

Whereas, the entire community is affected when arson is committed, as these deliberate fires result in the loss of lives, untold physical and emotional suffering caused by painful injuries, and the destruction of property; society as a whole further bears the burden in higher insurance premiums, degraded communities, a weakened local government tax base, and the unshakable sense of horror that shadows this crime; and

Whereas, serial arson is a repetitive, patterned act of crime often motivated by economic gain, concealment of another crime, revenge, or terrorism, and which also includes the impulse control disorder known as pyromania; and

Whereas, in celebrating the theme, "*Working Together to Extinguish Serial Arson*," this year's observance of Arson Awareness Week will highlight the importance of a strong collaborative effort among law enforcement, those in fire service, and the greater public, when battling serial arson in their communities; and

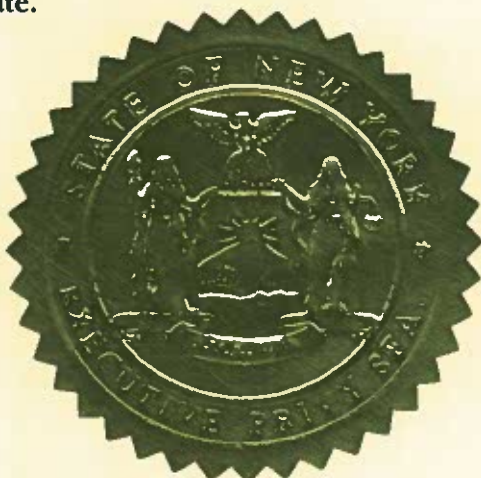
Whereas, New York applauds all who work toward the goal of eliminating arson by increasing public awareness of this problem, conducting community-based fire safety and education classes, sponsoring training programs for fire and law enforcement personnel who specialize in the area of arson, and by sharing their expertise in conducting investigations of arson crimes; and

Whereas, New York likewise supports local, state, and national efforts to curtail the incidence of arson, and joins in this observance and critical fire prevention campaign, honoring those who work in fire prevention and law enforcement investigation agencies, either in a volunteer or career capacity, so as to mitigate the incidence of intentionally-set fires and we thank them for their tireless efforts to protect and preserve our families and communities;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 1-7, 2011 as

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at
the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-seventh
day of April in the year two thousand eleven.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor